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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

10/560,917

**Applicant(s)**

KODAMA, YASUTAKA

**Examiner**

SCOTT A. MATTIA

**Art Unit**

3689

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 10) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of Claims***

1. This action is in reply to the Amendment/Response filed on 07/29/2011.
2. Claims 1-5 are cancelled.
3. Claims 6 and 7 are new.
4. Claims 6-7 are currently pending and have been examined.
5. Applicant's Remarks/Arguments are addressed at the end of this office action.

### ***Specification***

6. The amendment filed 7/29/2011 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: *"the coin laundry device, the data controller ... are connected via a LAN"* (Claim 7, lines 8-10). There is no support in the specification for the coin laundry devices and data controller connected via a LAN. The specification supports only a LAN connection between a store monitor and a network camera (Spec., p. 18, lines 8-9, and p. 26, lines 1-2).

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph***

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Newly added claim 7 recites the limitation “*the coin laundry device, the data controller ... are connected via a LAN*” (Claim 7, lines 8-10). There is no description in the specification for the coin laundry devices and data controller connected via a LAN. The original disclosure and specification at most describe a LAN connection between a store monitor and a network camera (Spec., p. 18, lines 8-9, and p. 26, lines 1-2). Accordingly, because the claimed LAN connection between coin laundry device and data controller was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, the claim is rejected as failing to meet the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph***

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim elements “*means for controlling the coin laundry device and the at least one network camera*” (Claim 6, lines 13-14, and Claim 7, lines 15-16) and “*means for individually and remotely controlling the zoom, pan and tilt functions*” (Claim 6, lines 23-24 and claim 7, lines 25-26) are considered a means plus function limitation that invoke 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. However, the written description fails to clearly disclose the corresponding structure, material, or acts for the claimed functions. What structure is required to control the coin laundry device and the at least one network camera? What structure is required to individually and remotely control the zoom, pan and tilt camera functions?

Applicant is required to:

- (a) Amend the claim so that the claim limitation will no longer be a means (or step) plus function limitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph; or
- (b) Amend the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)).

If applicant is of the opinion that the written description of the specification already implicitly or inherently discloses the corresponding structure, material, or acts so that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function, applicant is required to clarify the record by either:

- (a) Amending the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites the corresponding structure, material, or acts for performing the claimed function and clearly

links or associates the structure, material, or acts to the claimed function, without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)); or

(b) Stating on the record what the corresponding structure, material, or acts, which are implicitly or inherently set forth in the written description of the specification, perform the claimed function. For more information, see 37 CFR 1.75(d) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and 2181.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

13. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Kuroda” (Kuroda et al., US 5,859,778) in view of “Mottur” (Mottur et al., US 20020018124 A1) and further in view of Nakamura (US 5,923,817 A). Kuroda relates to a system for remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the

central control apparatus via communication means. Mottur relates generally to delivering content over a computer network, and more particularly to providing content related to live action feeds controlled over the network by network users. Nakamura relates to a video data record/playback system including video cameras, monitor devices, recording devices, and the like.

14. **CLAIM 6.** (New) A coin laundry management system comprising:

- *a coin laundry device;*

Kuroda teaches coin laundry machines (“a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18)

- *a control device that controls operation of the coin laundry device based on coin laundry device data received from various sensors;*

Kuroda teaches a control device that controls operation of the laundry machines (“operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers and dryers set in the laundrettes are **controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro switches, and the like** respectively installed in several parts of each machine”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; “microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors”, col. 1, lines 40-41; “clothes-washers (not shown in the drawing) as laundry machines arranged therein, and each dryer 8 is installed with a microcomputer 8a that controls the drying operation and an interface (hereinafter abbreviated as I/F) 8c for home bus system (hereinafter abbreviated as HBS)”, Kuroda, col. 5, line 42 )

- *a data controller that sends the data from the control device;*

Kuroda teaches a data transmission controller that sends data from microcomputer control device (“**microcomputer 8a also transmits such data** as the sales amount, rotational speed, temperatures, abnormality in inputting of charges, abnormality in the rotational speed or temperatures, etc. **from the HBS I/F 8c to a DTC (Data Transmission Controller)** in response to a periodical data transmission request from the DTC”, Kuroda, col. 5, line 53)

- *a coin laundry store including the coin laundry device, the data controller;*

Kuroda teaches a launderette (“In a **launderette**, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a self-service laundry facility, or laundromat)

- *a central control device located at a site other than the coin laundry store, and comprising a monitor at an administrator side, and a means for controlling the coin laundry device, said controlling means controlling the coin laundry device ... remotely based on the coin laundry device data*

Kuroda teaches a remotely located central control device (“Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the **central control apparatus** using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus; “a **remote management system** that makes it possible to change data stored in a memory in a control device of a machine which stores related data to the operation of the machine from a remote central control



apparatus of a management company, without dispatching personnel to the site of the machine”, Kuroda, col. 2, lines 36-41; i.e., “remote” system implies located somewhere other than the store)

Kuroda teaches the central control device has a display device (“FIG. 48 is a diagram showing an operation **monitoring screen**”, Kuroda, col. 4, line 46; “central control apparatus 3 comprises a control unit 3a such as a CPU, a **display device** 3b such as a CRT”, Kuroda, col. 6, line 24)

Kuroda teaches a means for controlling the laundry machine remotely (“remote management system that makes it possible to **reset a control device controlling the operation of a machine and to restart the machine, upon request from a remote central control apparatus**”, Kuroda, col. 2, line 51; “remote management system of the invention is arranged in such a configuration that, when a trouble of the dryer 8 is detected and accordingly the trouble detection flag 81a is set, **the dryer 8 can be reset, by transmitting a flag clearing request from the central control apparatus 3** of the management company 1, as will be described later. At this time, whether the flag is allowed to be promptly cleared is determined without a confirmation from the operator based on the type of the detected trouble. Further in the remote management system of the invention, the operation of the dryer 8 is automatically stopped when the trouble detection flag 81a is set and the operation is automatically started again when the trouble detection flag 81a is cleared as is so recognized that the trouble is solved. This makes it **possible to reset the dryer 8 without dispatching personnel to the laundrette 2**”, Kuroda, col. 10, line 13)

Kuroda does not expressly teach:

- *at least one network camera that converts images taken by the camera to moving image data and sends the image data;*
- *at least one store side monitor, the at least one side monitor being connected to the at least one network camera via a LAN;*
- *a means for controlling ... the at least one network camera*
- *the central control device being connected to the data controller and the at least one network camera via an internet*
- *moving image data of the coin laundry store that is sent to the central control device from the data controller and the at least one network camera via the internet*
- *wherein each one of the at least one network camera have controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions for obtaining image moving data from inside and outside the store, the central control device further comprising means for individually and remotely controlling the zoom, pan and tilt functions of each respective one of the at least one network camera by using a global IP address or domain name corresponding to said respective one of the at least one network camera;*
- *wherein the central control device and the at least one network camera are constantly connected to the internet; and*
- *wherein the moving image data of the inside and outside of the store taken by the at least one network camera at the store is constantly uploaded via the internet to a website as moving images in near real time on the monitor of the central control device at the administrator side.*

Mottur teaches:

- *at least one network camera that converts images taken by the camera to moving image data and sends the image data;*

Mottur teaches a network video camera that sends image data (“**camera can provide video (and audio) data for display or presentation to the network user**”. The audio/video data can be provided in real-time using uncompressed analog or digital streaming modes/formats to provide continuous feedback to the network user”, Mottur, par. 6; “The disclosed methods and systems include methods and systems for providing real-time **continuous streaming video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “connection between the network user and the camera(s) can facilitate communications via fiber optic, infrared, satellite, Radio Frequency (RF), microwave, cable, or Internet Protocol (IP), or other communications modes and/or protocols”, Mottur, par. 7)

- *a means for controlling ... the at least one network camera*

Mottur teaches a user interface for controlling a network camera (“systems allow the network users to **interactively control the cameras** using herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, **a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad**”, Mottur, par. 20)

- *the central control device being connected to the data controller and the at least one network camera via an internet*

Mottur teaches networked devices in connection/communication via the internet (“systems provide control of at least one camera to at least one network user. The **camera(s) and network users can be in communication with each other through a network including the internet or a public or private network**”, Mottur, par. 6 “continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users **on a network such as the internet an another public or private network**”, Mottur, par. 20; “connection between the network user and the camera(s) can facilitate communications via fiber optic, infrared, satellite, Radio Frequency (RF), microwave, cable, or Internet Protocol (IP), or other communications modes and/or protocols”, Mottur, par. 7; “web server 64 can be a separate device or program from the control server 50, the NOC 12, and other features of the web server 64. For example, in an embodiment, the control server 50 and NOC 12 can be separate servers and can have separate processors that can be in communication with the web server 64. Additionally and optionally, the NOC features 12 and the control server 50 can be integrated with the initiating device 62 or one or more processors related to or otherwise associated with the camera”, Mottur, par. 36)

- *moving image data of the coin laundry store that is sent to the central control device from the data controller and the at least one network camera via the internet*

Mottur teaches sending video over the internet (“**continuous streaming video** and audio data **from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network**”, Mottur, par. 20; “Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action

programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as 'webcams,' that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view", Mottur, par. 5)

- *wherein each one of the at least one network camera have controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions for obtaining image moving data from inside and outside the store, the central control device further comprising means for individually and remotely controlling the zoom, pan and tilt functions of each respective one of the at least one network camera by using a global IP address or domain name corresponding to said respective one of the at least one network camera;*

Mottur teaches network video cameras with controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions accessible via website ("methods and systems provide control of at least one camera to at least one network user. The camera(s) and network users can be in communication with each other through a network including the **internet** or a public or private network", Mottur, par. 6; **"The network users can utilize a microprocessor-controlled device that includes or displays an interface, including a graphical user interface (GUI), database or scripting interface, menu driven interface, etc., that can be collectively referred to herein as an interface. The interface can provide data from which camera control commands can be generated and transferred to the camera"**, Mottur, par. 6; "interface can have a control area that can have a cursor within the control area. Movement of the cursor within the control area can be translated to camera controls. For one embodiment, the control area can be calibrated such that continuous commands can be provided to the camera based on the cursor position while the cursor is active",

Mottur, par. 8; “systems allow the network users to **interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems**, wherein continuous camera control can be understood herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The **network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface** in the form of a control or touch pad”, Mottur, par. 20)

Mottur further teaches that video streaming websites are known in the art (“Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5). It is noted that website and camera IP addresses are an inherent aspect of webcam websites.

- *wherein the central control device and the at least one network camera are constantly connected to the internet; and wherein the moving image data of the inside and outside of the store taken by the at least one network camera at the store is constantly uploaded via the internet to a website as moving images in near real time on the monitor of the central control device at the administrator side*

Mottur teaches continuous internet-based video streaming (“**continuous streaming video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet or another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet

users. These **websites can be integrated with one or more cameras**, otherwise known as 'webcams,' that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view", Mottur, par. 5)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda with the internet/networked video camera system disclosed by Mottur. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, in order to provide real time video monitoring of Kuroda's laundry facility. Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., (a) remotely control laundry machinery, and (b) remotely control network cameras), and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable (i.e., adding remote video cameras to a laundromat yields predictable results of video monitoring/surveillance of the laundry facility).

Although Mottur does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including networked devices connected to a central system, even though the prior art does

not pertain to coin laundry, but rather game-related devices. Furthermore, the elements disclosed by Mottur solve the pertinent problem (i.e., remote device/facility monitoring).

Nakamura teaches:

- *at least one store side monitor, the at least one store side monitor being connected to the at least one network camera via a LAN*

Nakamura teaches a at least one monitor/display and at least one network camera connected to a LAN (“In FIG. 1, m video **camera devices 9** and n **monitor devices 4a** are **connected to a LAN 7**, which is constructed of a 100-Mbps Ethernet”, Nakamura, col. 4, line 57; “Using the generally known LAN’s broadcast function, a **live video picture can be supplied from video camera control devices 9 to monitor devices 4a** as long as these control and **monitor devices are connected to the same LAN 7**. That is, all the video camera control devices 9 send recorded data to a LAN 7 in the broadcast mode. In this case, the video server 5 causes a specified server 6 to pick up and store the recorded data. At the same time, **a monitor device 4a from which this video picture is seen live also picks up this broadcast data from the LAN and displays the broadcast data on the screen thereof**”, Nakamura, col. 6, line 47)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda in view of Mottur to include a local monitor and a LAN connection, as disclosed by Nakamura, which connects to the network cameras. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in view of Mottur in this way, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old



elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., applying a LAN and local monitor to network camera system the yields predictable results of a LAN based camera system with a local store side monitor). One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized, as commonly known business sense, that providing a local store side monitor/display as claimed provides notice to patrons that the store is being monitored, and this may serve as a deterrent to criminal activity.

15. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Kuroda” (Kuroda et al., US 5,859,778) in view of “Mottur” (Mottur et al., US 20020018124 A1) and further in view of Nakamura (US 5923817 A) and “Marchese” (US 20020003575 A1). Marchese relates to systems for accessing, recording, and displaying camera images from any of a number of remotely located cameras and, more particularly, to such systems that provide access to images from one or more remote cameras over a public or private computer network.
16. **CLAIM 7.** (New) A coin laundry management system comprising:

- *a coin laundry device*

Kuroda teaches coin laundry machines (“a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18);

- *a control device that controls operation of the coin laundry device based on coin laundry device data received from various sensors*

Kuroda teaches a control device that controls operation of the laundry machines (“operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers and dryers set in the laundrettes are **controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro switches, and the like** respectively installed in several parts of each machine”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; “microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors”, col. 1, lines 40-41; “clothes-washers (not shown in the drawing) as laundry machines arranged therein, and each dryer 8 is installed with a microcomputer 8a that controls the drying operation and an interface (hereinafter abbreviated as I/F) 8c for home bus system (hereinafter abbreviated as HBS)”, Kuroda, col. 5, line 42 );

- *a data controller that sends the data from the control device*

Kuroda teaches a data transmission controller that sends data from microcomputer control device (“**microcomputer 8a also transmits such data** as the sales amount, rotational speed, temperatures, abnormality in inputting of charges, abnormality in the rotational speed or temperatures, etc. **from the HBS I/F 8c to a DTC (Data Transmission Controller)** in response to a periodical data transmission request from the DTC”, Kuroda, col. 5, line 53);

- *a coin laundry store including the coin laundry device, the data controller...;*

Kuroda teaches a launderette (“In a **launderette**, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a self-service laundry facility, or laundromat);

- *a central control device located at a site other than the coin laundry store, and comprising a monitor at an administrator side, and a means for controlling the coin laundry device ... said controlling means controlling the coin laundry device ... remotely based on the coin laundry device data*

Kuroda teaches a remotely located central control device ("Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the **central control apparatus** using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus; "a **remote management system** that makes it possible to change data stored in a memory in a control device of a machine which stores related data to the operation of the machine from a remote central control apparatus of a management company, without dispatching personnel to the site of the machine", Kuroda, col. 2, lines 36-41; i.e., "remote" system implies located somewhere other than the store)

Kuroda teaches the central control device has a display device ("FIG. 48 is a diagram showing an operation **monitoring screen**", Kuroda, col. 4, line 46; "central control apparatus 3 comprises a control unit 3a such as a CPU, a **display device** 3b such as a CRT", Kuroda, col. 6, line 24)

Kuroda teaches a means for controlling the laundry machine remotely based on the machine data ("remote management system that makes it possible to **reset a control device controlling the operation of a machine and to restart the machine, upon request from a remote central control apparatus**", Kuroda, col. 2, line 51; "remote

management system of the invention is arranged in such a configuration that, when a trouble of the dryer 8 is detected and accordingly the trouble detection flag 81a is set, **the dryer 8 can be reset, by transmitting a flag clearing request from the central control apparatus 3** of the management company 1, as will be described later. At this time, whether the flag is allowed to be promptly cleared is determined without a confirmation from the operator based on the type of the detected trouble. Further in the remote management system of the invention, the operation of the dryer 8 is automatically stopped when the trouble detection flag 81a is set and the operation is automatically started again when the trouble detection flag 81a is cleared as is so recognized that the trouble is solved. This makes it **possible to reset the dryer 8 without dispatching personnel to the laundrette 2**", Kuroda, col. 10, line 13)

Kuroda does not expressly teach:

- *at least one network camera that converts images taken by the camera to moving image data and sends the image data;*
- *the coin laundry device, the data controller, the at least one network camera and at least one store side monitor are connected via LAN;*
- *a server connected to an internet and receiving the sent image data, the server being located at a first site other than the coin laundry service, and comprising a magnetic disc device which stores the received image data;*
- *a means for controlling ... the at least one network camera*
- *the central control device being connected to the data controller and the at least one network camera via an internet*

- *near time moving image data of the coin laundry store that is sent to the central control device from the data controller and the at least one network camera via the internet;*
- *wherein each one of the at least one network camera have controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions for obtaining image moving data from inside and outside the store, the central control device further comprising means for individually and remotely controlling the zoom, pan and tilt functions of each respective one of the at least one network camera by using a global IP address or domain name corresponding to said respective one of the at least one network camera;*
- *wherein the central control device and the at least one network camera are constantly connected to the internet;*
- *wherein the moving image data of the inside and outside of the store taken by the at least one network camera at the store is constantly uploaded to the server and stored at the magnetic disc device via the internet;*
- *wherein the central control device based on administrator input may select first data and second data stored at the magnetic disc device via the internet, restore said select first data as a still image and restore said select second data as motion images, and display and playback the restored still image and restored motion images on a website at a selected time interval, wherein a webpage viewer may selectively view the restored still image and restored motion images*

Mottur teaches:

- *at least one network camera that converts images taken by the camera to moving image data and sends the image data;*

Mottur teaches a network video camera that sends image data (“**camera can provide video (and audio) data for display or presentation to the network** user. The audio/video data can be provided in real-time using uncompressed analog or digital streaming modes/formats to provide continuous feedback to the network user”, Mottur, par. 6; “The disclosed methods and systems include methods and systems for providing real-time **continuous streaming video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “connection between the network user and the camera(s) can facilitate communications via fiber optic, infrared, satellite, Radio Frequency (RF), microwave, cable, or Internet Protocol (IP), or other communications modes and/or protocols”, Mottur, par. 7)

- *a server connected to an internet and receiving the sent image data, the server being located at a first site other than the coin laundry service, and comprising a magnetic disc device which stores the received image data;*

Mottur teaches internet video streaming web server with disc drives capable of storing received data (“encoder outputs can be input to an **Internet Video Streaming (IVS) web server** 18 and a Direct Television (SDI/DTV) or MPEG (MPG) video server 20. The servers 18, 20 can communicate with a point-of-presence (POP) server 22 to distribute audio-visual data from the cameras 16a-16f using IVS 24, MPEG (MPG) 26, or MPG/DTV 28 audio-video formats”, Mottur, par. 23; “encoders 14a, 14b can encode the uncompressed video data for presentation to the **servers 18, 20 that can thereafter distribute the data over a network** or other communications link”, Mottur, par. 24;

**“servers 18, 20, 22 can be one or more microprocessor-based systems** including a computer workstation, such as a PC workstation or a SUN workstation, handheld, palmtop, laptop, personal digital assistant (PDA), cellular phone, etc., that includes a program for organizing and controlling the server 18, 20, 22 to operate as described herein. Additionally and optionally, the server 18, 20, 22 can be equipped with a sound and video card or device for processing multimedia data. The server 18, 20, 22 can operate as a stand-alone system or as part of a networked computer system”, Mottur, par. 27; **“server 18, 20, 22 can also include one or more mass storage devices such as a disk farm or a redundant array of independent disks (“RAID”) system for additional storage** and data integrity”, Mottur, par. 27)

- *a means for controlling ... the at least one network camera*

Mottur teaches a user interface for controlling a network camera (“systems allow the network users to **interactively control the cameras** using herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, **a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad**”, Mottur, par. 20)

- *the central control device being connected to the data controller and the at least one network camera via an internet*

Mottur teaches networked devices in connection/communication via the internet (“systems provide control of at least one camera to at least one network user. The **camera(s) and network users can be in communication with each other through a network including the internet or a public or private network**”, Mottur, par. 6

“continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users **on a network such as the internet an another public or private network**”, Mottur, par. 20; “connection between the network user and the camera(s) can facilitate communications via fiber optic, infrared, satellite, Radio Frequency (RF), microwave, cable, or Internet Protocol (IP), or other communications modes and/or protocols”, Mottur, par. 7; “web server 64 can be a separate device or program from the control server 50, the NOC 12, and other features of the web server 64. For example, in an embodiment, the control server 50 and NOC 12 can be separate servers and can have separate processors that can be in communication with the web server 64. Additionally and optionally, the NOC features 12 and the control server 50 can be integrated with the initiating device 62 or one or more processors related to or otherwise associated with the camera”, Mottur, par. 36)

- *near time moving image data of the coin laundry store that is sent to the central control device from the data controller and the at least one network camera via the internet;*

Mottur teaches sending real-time video over the internet (“**continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet** an another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5)



- *wherein each one of the at least one network camera have controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions for obtaining image moving data from inside and outside the store, the central control device further comprising means for individually and remotely controlling the zoom, pan and tilt functions of each respective one of the at least one network camera by using a global IP address or domain name corresponding to said respective one of the at least one network camera;*

Mottur teaches network video cameras with controllable zoom, pan and tilt functions accessible via website ("methods and systems provide control of at least one camera to at least one network user. The camera(s) and network users can be in communication with each other through a network including the **internet** or a public or private network", Mottur, par. 6; "The **network users can utilize a microprocessor-controlled device that includes or displays an interface, including a graphical user interface (GUI)**, database or scripting interface, menu driven interface, etc., that can be collectively referred to herein as an interface. The **interface can provide data from which camera control commands can be generated and transferred to the camera**", Mottur, par. 6; "interface can have a **control area** that can have a cursor within the control area. Movement of the cursor within the control area can be translated to camera controls. For one embodiment, the control area can be calibrated such that continuous commands can be provided to the camera based on the cursor position while the cursor is active", Mottur, par. 8; "systems allow the network users to **interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems**, wherein continuous camera control can be understood herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The

**network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface** in the form of a control or touch pad”, Mottur, par. 20)

Mottur further teaches that video streaming websites are known in the art (“Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5). It is noted that website and camera IP addresses are an inherent aspect of webcam websites.

- *wherein the central control device and the at least one network camera are constantly connected to the internet;*

Mottur teaches continuous internet-based video streaming (“**continuous streaming video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda with the internet/networked video camera system disclosed by Mottur. One of ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, in order to provide real time video monitoring of Kuroda's laundry facility. Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., (a) remotely control laundry machinery, and (b) remotely control network cameras), and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable (i.e., adding remote video cameras to a laundromat yields predictable results of video monitoring/surveillance of the laundry facility).

Although Mottur does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including networked devices connected to a central system, even though the prior art does not pertain to coin laundry, but rather game-related devices. Furthermore, the elements disclosed by Mottur solve the pertinent problem (i.e., remote device/facility monitoring)

- *wherein the moving image data of the inside and outside of the store taken by the at least one network camera at the store is constantly uploaded to the server ... via the internet*

Mottur further teaches continuous internet-based video streaming, which inherently involves constant uploading to a web server via the internet ("**continuous streaming video** and audio data **from at least one remote camera system and/or**

**location, to network users on a network such as the internet** an another public or private network”, Mottur, par. 20; “Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These **websites can be integrated with one or more cameras**, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5; “**Internet Video Streaming (IVS) web server 18** and a Direct Television (SDI/DTV) or MPEG (MPG) video server 20. The servers 18, 20 can communicate with a point-of-presence (POP) server 22 to distribute audio-visual data from the cameras”, Mottur, par. 23)

Nakamura teaches:

- *the coin laundry device, the data controller, the at least one network camera and at least one store side monitor are connected via LAN;*

Nakamura teaches at least one local monitor/display connected via LAN to at least one network camera (“In FIG. 1, m **video camera devices 9** and n **monitor devices 4a** are **connected to a LAN 7**, which is constructed of a 100-Mbps Ethernet”, Nakamura, col. 4, line 57; “Using the generally known LAN’s broadcast function, a **live video picture can be supplied from video camera control devices 9 to monitor devices 4a** as long as these control and **monitor devices are connected to the same LAN 7**. That is, all the video camera control devices 9 send recorded data to a LAN 7 in the broadcast mode. In this case, the video server 5 causes a specified server 6 to pick up and store the recorded data. At the same time, a **monitor device 4a from which this video picture is**

**seen live also picks up this broadcast data from the LAN and displays the broadcast data on the screen thereof”, Nakamura, col. 6, line 47).**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management and camera system disclosed by Kuroda in view of Mottur to include a local monitor connected to network camera, as disclosed by Nakamura. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in view of Mottur in this way, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., applying a LAN and local monitor to network camera system the yields predictable results of a LAN based camera system with a local store side monitor). One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized, as commonly known business sense, that providing a local store side monitor/display as claimed provides notice to patrons that the store is being monitored, and this may serve as a deterrent to criminal activity.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to utilize the LAN connection of Nakamura to connect the laundry management devices at the store of Kuroda in view of Mottur, including laundry device, data controller, network camera and monitor. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to utilize a LAN to facilitate high-speed communication between devices in a limited area. Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same

function as it did separately (i.e., applying a LAN to the laundry management and camera system yields predictable results of a LAN-based system).

Marchese teaches:

- *wherein the moving image data of the inside and outside of the store taken by the at least one network camera at the store is ... stored at the magnetic disc device;*

Marchese teaches a network video system that records/stores image data directly on a hard disk ("hard drive 40 also contains a stream recorder client application 50 and an image viewer 52. Stream recorder client 50 permits high speed **recording of streamed images (video)** in a manner that minimizes network bandwidth utilization", Marchese, par. 40; "**Digitized recorded video is stored directly on hard disk 40**", Marchese, par. 40; "digital storage device" includes any of a variety of different digital storage devices, including **magnetic media such as a hard disk** or removable disk, optical storage media such as a CDROM or DVD, or magneto-optical media", Marchese, par. 38)

- *wherein the central control device based on administrator input may select first data and second data stored at the magnetic disc device via the internet, restore said select first data as a still image and restore said select second data as motion images, and display and playback the restored still image and restored motion images on a website at a selected time interval, wherein a webpage viewer may selectively view the restored still image and restored motion images*

Marchese further teaches a network video system capable of image playback on a website that includes still images and video ("FIG. 10 depicts the process flow provided by the **image viewer program 52**, which can be, but need not be, a separate executable

than program 42. This process can be launched from within program 42 using the **'Browse Archive Images'** command in the Archive menu of FIG. 5. This program 52 can include authentication capability to provide the user with access to only those archived images that have come from servers accessible to that user. This is indicated in FIG. 10 where the program reads the database for defined servers and parses the record path for matching servers. Then it will display a tree structure showing only those archived images and streams that came from cameras or servers defined in the database for that user. Once the user has selected an archived jpg or jpx file, the image is brought up on the screen and, for jpx streams, the user can play, pause, stop, frame advance and review using buttons that emulate a VCR panel", Marchese, par. 132; "use of the image viewer program 52 as a plug-in for commercially available web browsers. In conventional browser-based retrieval of video, the video files can be quite large, and the user can therefore typically only request a small number of frames. The user does not know the stream size, frame count, index of time pointers, etc. By implementing the image viewer 52 as a plug-in component for a web browser, viewer can be used to provide web page access from a web browser to stored jpx images", Marchese, par. 134; "FIG. 11 depicts the main menu for the image viewer program 52. The 'Tree' command under the Browse Mode menu item allows the user to browse all permitted archives by server, camera, date, and type. The 'Date' command allows the user to search by date/time for a selected server and camera. The 'Directory List' command lets the user browse all attached drives manually. The Indexing command under the Maintenance menu allows the user to set the autoindexing features described

above. The process used by the image viewer program 52 for setting up the autoindex feature is shown in FIG. 12a. The 'Delete' command under the Maintenance menu allows the user to manually delete archives or automatically delete archives older than a selected date/time stamp. FIG. 12b depicts the process flow when the 'Delete' command is selected. The 'Format Conversion' command under the Tools menu allows the user to convert images to other standardized formats. The Display Mode menu allows the user to **playback the images either as thumbnails** (like images 48 displayed in the windows 46 generated by the user interface client program 46) or in a cinema (fullscreen) mode", Marchese, par. 136)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management and camera system disclosed by Kuroda in view of Mottur to include (i) hard disk image storage capability and (ii) website replay capability as taught by Marchese. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in view of Mottur in this way since (i) since storing the video on a disk saves it for future use and creates a record of events that happened at the laundry store, and (ii) website playback allows for video to be conveniently viewed from anywhere that has a computer with an internet web-browser. Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., the ability to store image data and the ability to playback the image data via website, combined with the laundry



management and camera system yields the predictable result of a laundry management and camera system with video recording and website playback capability).

***Response to Arguments***

17. Applicant's arguments have been fully carefully considered, but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action as necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

***Conclusion***

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
19. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT A. MATTIA whose telephone number is (571)270-7787. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM..

21. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAN MOONEYHAM can be reached on (571)272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
22. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. A. M./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Dennis Ruhl/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689